

Filed: January 27, 2004

Appl. No.: New
Docket No.: 1248-0691P

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 12 are independent claims. By this preliminary amendment, claims 1-8 and 12-19 are amended for clarity and to correct minor informalities contained therein, and a new Abstract is attached hereto.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 to schedule a Personal Interview.

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Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Charles Gorenstein, #29,271

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

CG/CTB:ctb
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Attachment(s): Abstract of the Disclosure